

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Amendment, claim 76 is amended and claims 1-32, 65 and 66 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 33-64 and 68-71 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments/remarks is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout the prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner to Applicant's representative during the April 25, 2006 personal interview. The points discussed during the personal interview are incorporated herein.

I. The Claim Satisfy the Requirements of 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-32 and 76 under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph and claims 1-32, 65-67 and 72-76 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 are rendered moot in view of the claim amendments made above as well as the discussion with the Examiner on April 25, 2006. Thus, withdrawal of those rejections is respectfully requested.

II. The Pending Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter Pursuant to 35 USC §103

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 USC §103 as being obvious in the view of the combination of Taylor (WO97/14133), Callway (EP 1061434) and Ebihara (US2002/013087). The Office Action also rejects claims 2-32, 65-67 and 72-76 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being

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unpatentable over Taylor, in view of Callway and Ebihara as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Lefebvre. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claims 1-66 and 68-71 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. During the April 25, 2006 personal interview, the Examiner indicated that claim 67 and those claims depending therefrom were allowable over the applied references. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 67 and 71-76 is respectfully requested and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

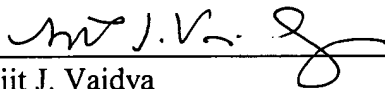
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnest solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1349.

Respectfully submitted,

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